

Interim report under section 33 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 on SC045522 Aspire Community Solutions

Introduction

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (“OSCR”) is making inquiries into Aspire Community Solutions under section 28 of the Charities and Trustee Investment Scotland Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”). OSCR has issued a direction in terms of section 31(7) of the 2005 Act as a result of its inquiries. OSCR has also used powers under Section 29(1) to obtain information for our inquiries following failure of trustees to provide information.

Background

Aspire Community Solutions (“the charity”) is a Scottish registered charity. It was entered on the Scottish Charity Register on 27 March 2015 under the name Renfrewshire Environmental and Restoration Group. On 15 December 2016 the charity changed name to Aspire Community Solutions.

In April 2019 OSCR opened an inquiry into the charity following receipt of concerns about the charity’s governance and financial controls.

Action

To date OSCR’s inquiries into the charity have given us concern surrounding both the governance of the charity and financial controls within the charity.

Based on the information we have obtained throughout the course of our inquiry, which remains ongoing, we are concerned that there has been misconduct in the administration of the charity and consider it necessary and desirable to take protective action in respect of the charity’s property. We have therefore issued a formal direction to the charity’s bank preventing it from parting with any property of the charity without OSCR’s consent. OSCR have also used powers under Section 29(1) to obtain information from the charity to support our inquiry.

The direction is valid for six months and expires on 9 January 2020. The direction can be revoked or varied by OSCR during that period if we determine it appropriate to do so.

Update (10/12/2019)

Throughout our inquiries further information has become available regarding a second charity bank account, as a result OSCR have issued a second direction in

terms of section 31(7) of the 2005 Act preventing the bank from parting with any property of the charity without OSCR's consent.

OSCR has again used powers under Section 29(1) to obtain information for our inquiries following failure of trustees to provide information.

The direction is valid for six months and expires on 30 March 2020. The direction can be revoked or varied by OSCR during that period if we determine it appropriate to do so

Our inquiries into the charity are ongoing and this direction does not pre-empt the outcome.

OSCR
10 December 2019